

Message Text

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ACTION COME-00

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 EB-08 TRSE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07

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-----101302Z 104914 /46

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FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1575

UNCLAS TEHRAN 2171

COMMERCE FOR CAGNE

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, IR

SUBJ: IRAN'S TRADE WITH PRINCIPAL COUNTRIES IN 1976

REF: (A) 76 USDOC 17240, (B) 76 TEHRAN 10132

1. THE EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE SOONEST FOR USE AT MARCH 15 OECD EMBASSIES MEETING US/IRAN EXPORT/IMPORT DATA FOR COMPLETE 1976. LATEST AVAILABLE DATA NOVEMBER FT 990 IS FOR 11 MONTHS 1976 WHICH SHOWS U.S. EXPORTS TO IRAN AT \$2949.6 MILLION, DOWN 10.3 PERCENT OVER SAME PERIOD 1975, AND IMPORTS FROM IRAN, AT \$1617.5 MILLION UP 27.9 PERCENT. PLEASE CORRECT, IF NECESSARY, OUR ASSUMPTION THAT THESE US EXPORT DATA ARE INCLUSIVE OF ALL MILITARY GOODS. ALSO, IN PROVIDING COMPLETE 1976 DATA PLEASE IDENTIFY OR ESTIMATE PORTION WHICH COULD BE CONSIDERED MILITARY HARDWARE (AS AGAINST CIVILIAN GOODS IMPORTED BY THE MILITARY) AND ALSO FOR 1975 FOR COMPARATIVE PURPOSES. THE "TEHRAN JOURNAL" MARCH 10 CARRIED AN UNATTRIBUTED ITEM SAYING US EXPORTS TO IRAN LAST YEAR WERE DOWN 12 PERCENT AT \$2800 MILLION AND ARE PREDICTED TO INCREASE TO \$3100 MILLION THIS YEAR, DATA INCONSISTENT WITH FT 990

2. THE FOLLOWING FULL YEAR 1976 PRELIMINARY TRADE DATA, IN MILLIONS OF

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CURRENCY STATED FROM THE CUSTOMS DEPARTMENTS OF RESPECTIVE FOREIGN COUNTRIES, HAVE BEEN COLLECTED FROM TEHRAN EMBASSIES OF THE FOUR COUNTRIES WHICH WITH THE US ACCOUNTED FOR 66 PERCENT OF IRAN'S NON-MILITARY IMPORTS IN THE YEAR ENDING MARCH 20, 1976 (2534); PERCENT CHANGE FROM 1975 IS BASED ON THE CURRENCY OF THE COUNTRY:

TRADE WITH IRAN EXPORTS TO CHANGE IMPORTS FROM CHANGE

U.K. (POUNDS STERLING)	511	2.6	1050	NEGLIGIBLE
JAPAN (US\$)	1707	-8.0	4449	-11
FRANCE (FRANC)	3121	15.5	6891	24.4
W.GERMANY (DM)	5758	10.9	4983	73.1

3. COMMENT: THE ABOVE EXPORT DATA ARE EX-MILITARY FOR FRANCE AND GERMANY (SAID TO BE NEGLIGIBLE IN ANY CASE) AND EX-MILITARY HARDWARE FOR THE U.K. THE DATA ARE CONSISTENT WITH EXPORT TRENDS TO IRAN REPORTED IN REF B, I.E. JAPAN DOWN, U.K. ABOUT EVEN AND GERMANY AND FRANCE UP, EXCEPT FOR THE APPARENT U.S. RECOVERY

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THE INCREASED VOLUME AND PRICE OF OIL IS SAID BY FRENCH AND GERMAN COLLEAGUES TO ACCOUNT FOR THE SUBSTANTIAL INCREASE IN IMPORTS FROM IRAN. WHILE THESE 1976 RESULTS SHOULD BE INDICATIVE OF WHAT WILL BE POSTED AS IRANIAN IMPORTS FOR YEAR 2535 ENDING MARCH 20, IT IS NOT POSSIBLE TO PREDICT WHETHER THE U.S. WILL LOSE FIRST POSITION AS IRAN'S NON-MILITARY SUPPLIER UNTIL WE HAVE SOME PROFILE OF 1976 U.S. EXPORTS, E.E. THE PROPORTIONATE MOVEMENT OF MILITARY VERSUS NON-MILITARY EXPORTS IN 1975 AND 1976.

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Disposition Case Number: n/a
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